

There Is A Season

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Introduction

- Time Change
 - Everyone should have gotten an extra hour of sleep
 - OR, you convinced yourself that you could stay up an hour later
 - WHATEVER, you are here, you made it!
- News Segment on this push to end time change (Reasons to end time change)
 - People don't like the transition of time
 - Heart attacks go up around time change periods
 - What can we actually control?
 - Do we actually save daylight?
 - Despite our attempts to control time and daylight, we are reminded that there is something greater, something beyond our control at work and that there is a season for everything.
- New Sermon Series
 - A Season for Everything
 - Based off Ecclesiastes 3
 - You may be more familiar with the song made popular by the Byrds from 1965, "Turn! Turn! Turn!" -Ed Sullivan Show, Forest Gump
 - Rationale for series
 - Holiday Seasons (Thanksgiving and Christmas)
 - Time for: Excitement, Family, Celebration
 - Also a time for: Depression, Anxiety, and Loneliness
 - While we consider all of these emotions and opportunities- these holidays remind us to be Thankful for a Savior!
 - So I hope that this sermon series will serve as a preparation for you as you enter the holiday seasons.

The Sovereignty of God

- The Book of Ecclesiastes begins
 - **Ecclesiastes 1:1-3**
 - Confusing
 - Depressing
 - What is the point of life? Is life just empty or void of meaning?
 - The answer- **Ecclesiastes 3:14**; God is Sovereign through every season!
 - "The theme of Ecclesiastes is the necessity of fearing God in a fallen, and therefore frequently confusing and frustrating world."¹
- McCormick Spices Commercial
 - Advertising for Thanksgiving
 - Pictures of a family as they grow through the years

¹ *ESV Study Bible*, Wheaton: Crossway, 2008. Pg. 1193.

- The family grows
 - People get older
 - The furniture changes
 - But still everyone gathers around the dinner table
- McCormick's purpose is to remind viewers that even though time changes, there's always a turkey
 - What makes the turkey taste so good?
 - Something small that may seem insignificant- spices added to the turkey
 - McCormick has been a constant throughout the years
- As times change and different seasons enter and exit our lives, we need to be reminded of the sovereignty of God.
 - God is always there
 - While seasons change the writer of The Book of Hebrews reminds us, "**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).**"
- Thanksgiving is an attitude of Worship
 - Worship is a response to God's presence and activity in our lives
 - So, Worship begins with an awareness of God's presence in our lives
 - How aware are you of God's presence in this season of your life?
 - Find a constant
 - God is sovereign at all times!

Season of Opportunity

- Because God is sovereign at all times, each season provides us with the opportunity for God to fulfill his will in our lives.
 - **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** describes Jesus' life as described in the Gospels
 - His life was a roller coaster of seasons!
 - His birth and death changed history!
 - **John 13:1 (ESV)**, "**Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**"
 - Jesus knew that his hour or time had come
 - At other times, Jesus had removed himself from situations or in the case of his mother, he responded to her request, "My time has not yet come."
 - Jesus understood that this season of his life, although difficult, had a greater purpose orchestrated by the sovereignty of God.
 - Because he had this understanding he was able to allow the God the Father to fulfill God's plans in his life.
 - **John 13:6-7 (ESV)**, "**He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, do you wash my feet?' Jesus answered him, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.'**"
 - Sometimes we don't always understand God's purposes in the season we are in.
 - We may not understand until some time later

- Notice: the disciples confusion and fear brought about the Salvation of the World
 - God had a purpose that they could not understand in the moment
- Communion Setting
 - “Do This In Remembrance of Me”
 - Disciples thought they were gathering to celebrate another Passover Meal, but God was about to fulfill the deliverance of all humanity through the cross and resurrection
 - It wasn’t until after all of these event that the disciples were able to look back and say, “Oh now it all makes sense.”
- Because God is sovereign at all times, each season provides us with the opportunity for God to fulfill his will in our lives.
 - We may not understand all that is happening, but if we will remember God’s presence is with us, God’s will can be fulfilled in our lives
 - **1 Corinthians 15:57 (ESV), “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**
 - I want to encourage you to pray, “God, I give you this season.”

We can't stop time, but we can make the most of today

- Pictures have a way of capturing a moment
 - Thanksgiving Family Picture
 - Traditional
 - Same picture
 - Taken at the dining room table
 - Everyone sat in the same spots
 - Food was probably on in the same spot too
 - You knew the routine; sit and smile
 - Photo album all looks the same
 - Overtime, people get older, some members are no longer at the table and then new ones get added.
 - There is a season for everything!
- Solomon’s words are not born out of depression, but upon the reflection that no matter what we do, we can’t control time.
 - Seasons change whether we want them to or not
 - Time keeps moving forward
 - Conclusion: We can’t stop time, but we can make the most of today.
- References to “Today” in scripture
 - **“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24; ESV).”**
 - **“Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2b; ESV).”**
- Everything begins and ends with God
 - We find our purpose in God

- God can make sense of the chaos in our lives and provide us with hope
- This is Salvation and we have the option to choose
- We can't stop time; but we can make the most of today!

Conclusion

- There is a season for everything
 - While we can't always control the seasons
 - We can trust a God who is Sovereign
 - Because God is sovereign at all times, each season provides us with the opportunity for God to fulfill his will in our lives.
 - Pray, "God, I give you this season."
 - Make the most of today.